

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT VEST**

**Q:** Does the VEST training take place in Sacramento?

**A:** VEST training may take place throughout California depending upon the location of the VEST members being trained. Many VEST trainings are now held via the Go-To-Meeting format allowing VEST members to participate in the training from their home offices. This reduces or eliminates training-related travel expenses and requires less time taken from VEST members' regular workload.

**Q:** Who pays for the time I am in training?

**A:** While a VEST member, you remain in your regular position/classification and receive your normal monthly pay check. During training your department pays for your regular work week schedule. There is no overtime pay for training. We try to schedule training Tuesday through Thursday.

**Q:** Who pays for the time I am deployed?

**A:** While a VEST member, you remain in your regular position/classification and receive your normal monthly pay check. During deployment your department pays for your regular work week schedule. The California Department of Social Services pays for any authorized accrued overtime, per diem and travel.

**Q:** Can Retired Annuitants apply for the VEST Team?

**A:** No.

**Q:** Do I have to use any of my leave time to cover when I am away from my office during training or deployment?

**A:** No.

**Q:** What is the longest I would be away from my work section/office during a deployment?

**A:** The minimum deployment is five days and the maximum deployment is 15 days. In order to become a VEST member, you must complete and your supervisor must sign the VEST Statement of Understanding. The Statement of Understanding lists in detail the provisions of becoming a VEST member.

**Q:** What are the locations of deployment?

A: Usually within the state of California. There have been special requests from other states for assistance by our VEST members (i.e., Hurricane Katrina). These requests must be approved by the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services, Health and Human Services Agency, and the California Department of Social Services. As with any deployment, your supervisor must approve.